

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JULY 1983

Diplomacy Over Lebanon Withdrawal

Shultz, Cheysson Tours — Secretary of State Shultz held talks with Saudi King Fahd in Jidda on 4 July and arrived in Beirut the following morning, according to SPA and Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, official Syrian sources confirmed that Shultz will visit Syria on 5 July but stressed that Syrian leaders will "only listen" to his views, Radio Monte Carlo reported. A *Tishrin* commentary reviewed by Damascus radio on 5 July described the Shultz tour as "an attempt to ignore facts" and stressed that the secretary will find in Damascus "the same principled Arab stand which he knows quite well."

In another development, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 4 July and will also hold talks in Israel prior to Shultz' visit there, according to Damascus and IDF Radio reports.

Habib Mission to Israel — During a "tense" meeting with presidential envoy Philip Habib, Prime Minister Menachem Begin rejected "out of hand" Habib's proposal that the IDF unilaterally withdraw from Lebanon, Jerusalem television reported on 1 July. Political sources in Jerusalem believe Habib can no longer raise any proposal conducive to the evacuation of the Syrians from Lebanon and that his mission has come to an end, the television added. While Habib and some other U.S. officials are convinced that a complete Israeli pullout would lead to "enormous pressure" by the Arab world on Syria and the PLO to leave Lebanon, the 1 July *Jerusalem Post* wrote, Israeli officials are clearly upset that the apparently changed U.S. tactic might embolden Syria to "stay put." When asked by a Jerusalem television correspondent whether Habib's proposal was discussed in his talks with the U.S. envoy, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said "there is no such proposal," adding that Israel rejects any change in the timetable of the withdrawal and believes that all sides should adhere to the principle of simultaneous withdrawal.

At its 3 July session the Cabinet decided to meet and discuss the question of IDF redeployment "this week" before Shultz' arrival, IDF Radio reported. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is expected to present the ministers with various plans the IDF has drawn up for redeployment which, "government sources" believe, is to be along a 45-km "line of consensus" in Lebanon, Jerusalem and IDF radios reported.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Cease-Fire, Collective Leadership — The PLO reconciliation committee and the Fatah dissidents agreed on an immediate cease-fire to resolve the dispute within Fatah by democratic dialogue, Kuwait radio reported on 4 July following lengthy talks in Damascus between the PLO committee led by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and a Fatah opposition delegation headed by

Nimr Salih. Under the terms of the agreement, which was announced by Al-Fahum and Salih, the reconciliation committee acceded to the dissidents' demand for Fatah to be committed to a collective leadership and to refrain from making any decisions before consulting PLO institutions and cadres. Salih also announced that the PLO committee had submitted ideas that would contribute toward the formation of an emergency leadership committee to pave the way for a Fatah general congress, KUNA reported. After an earlier meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, Al-Fahum said the Syrians had expressed their commitment to maintaining cooperation with the PLO, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Nevertheless, observers in Tunis cited by the radio ascribed the earlier delay in the committee's arrival in Damascus to Syrian "political obstacles" rather than to the "technical reasons" announced by PLO officials in Tunis. Meanwhile, the Saudi-Algerian delegation which visited Syria on 1 July left Damascus "suddenly" without meeting Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported. The delegation discussed the rift within Fatah with Khaddam, Damascus radio noted.

Military Situation — The military situation in Al-Biq'a was generally calm following the 4 July cease-fire despite a limited clash between loyalists and dissidents near Shtawrah, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, in the wake of further clashes between the rival factions over the weekend, a PLO military spokesman accused the PFLP-General Command and the "mercenaries" of violating the previous cease-fire agreement and attacking loyalist positions on 3 July, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. A PLO military statement carried by WAFA the previous day said three loyalists were killed in clashes on 2 June, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Fighters from Fatah's Squad 17 wounded three Syrian soldiers in an ambush the same day, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed. Two Syrians were killed in another ambush by Fatah loyalists on 3 July, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the Syrians arrested 26 Fatah members in Damascus and banned all Fatah vehicles from Syrian roads, according to AFP.

Developments in Tunis — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat explained the situation in Fatah at a meeting with PLO representatives from many parts of the world, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported on 3 July. The PLO leader also sent two "urgent" messages to the Soviet leadership, according to WAFA reports cited by Aden radio. Fatah Central Committee sources revealed that Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov recently informed 'Arafat that the USSR is unable to pressure Syria to resolve the differences between the Syrian and Fatah leaders, the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Watan* reported. The PLO Executive Committee had earlier stressed the importance of preserving PLO-Syrian ties, according to the official statement issued by the Committee after its 29-30 June session and broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO on 2 July.

Expulsion of Jiryis — Lebanese authorities deported Palestine Research Center Director Sabri Jiryis and several other Palestinian officials "for security reasons," Beirut radio reported on 4 July. Some workers at the Research Center in Beirut have been detained by the Lebanese in connection with recent explosions, the radio noted.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Morocco — Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi received a "warm welcome" in Morocco during his 30 June-3 July visit, according to a joint communique carried by JANA. Al-Qadhdhafi's talks with King Hassan II dealt with "various bilateral," Arab, African, and international issues, the communique said. Concerning bilateral relations, the two sides discussed ways of "bolstering and strengthening" ties and agreed on setting up a joint commission to develop them. The sides agreed on the need for Arab unity and expressed their resolve "to purify" the Arab atmosphere. The Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the two sides asserted in the communique, contains "unbalanced" provisions that will harm the supreme Arab interest. In the area of the Maghreb, the parties expressed their desire to remove "whatever might harm relations" between them, avoid all causes of tension, and to keep the region out of international conflicts aimed at hegemony and the spread of influence. On the Sahara issue, both sides stated their appreciation for African efforts to find a peaceful and just settlement to the problem, the communique said. Earlier, AFP said King Hassan warned Al-Qadhdhafi that the Libyan Army would not have "elbow room" if it intervened directly in Chad as it would come face to face with the Moroccan Army.

Libyan Media on Chad — JANA reported on 3 July that Zaire had "officially intervened militarily" in Chad. Later, Tripoli radio cited an official of Goukouni's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) denouncing Zaire's intervention and France's role in it and warning that the GUNT "will not be alone" in confronting a direct foreign intervention in Chad.

Arrest of Coup Plotters — Libyan opposition sources in London reported that the Libyan authorities arrested five pilots recently on charges of planning a military coup to overthrow Al-Qadhdhafi's government, INA reported on 3 July.

Egypt-Iraq

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was "delighted" with his visit to Cairo which he said was successful in solidifying the ties of "brotherhood and cooperation" between the two countries, Cairo radio reported on 5 July. Earlier, the Iraqi minister met with President Husni Mubarak and said their talks resulted in an "identity" of views on the Arab topics discussed, according to MENA. They exchanged views on bilateral ties, their respective national situations, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Arab situation in general, according to another MENA report. In reply to a question whether the visit means a full resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt, 'Aziz said the "main point is the content" of the relations between the two countries and that both sides are satisfied that the "proper" course is being followed. At a banquet speech in honor of the visitor, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the Iraqi minister's visit is a "practical proof" that

Egypt's link with its Arab sisters is strong, deep, and organic and transcends all that is casual and transitory, according to MENA. The lengthy talks between the two foreign ministers dealt mostly with specific ways to strengthen bilateral relations, including the further exchange of visits at the ministerial level and the revival of agreements previously suspended, according to subsequent Cairo radio and MENA reports. Regarding military cooperation, 'Aziz said that the two commands reached an agreement on a step in this regard, according to a Cairo radio report.

Reacting to the Iraqi minister's visit, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said it is a "flagrant" violation of the Baghdad and other Arab resolutions which stipulated the boycott of all forms of relations with Egypt, SANA reported on 3 July. Meanwhile, a commentary broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service on the same day viewed 'Aziz' visit as an attempt "to increase" the Ba'thist leaders' collusion with the U.S. camp in the region and to obtain even greater military help from Egypt.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces defeated an Iraqi offensive in the Sharhani sector of the southern front and inflicted a "large number" of casualties, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 2 July. Iranian forces captured Iraqi positions in the course of the fighting, the communique added. The Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio on the same day did not specifically refer to any increase in military activity, reporting only exchanges of fire. Both Iranian and Iraqi military communiqués broadcast by the respective radios over the week-end accused each other of directing long-range artillery fire against civilian targets in cities along the border area. Earlier, the commander of the Iraqi Navy revealed that over 100 Iranian naval and commercial vessels have been destroyed since the beginning of the war in September 1980, INA reported 1 July.

In another development, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili "categorically denied" foreign reports claiming that Iran had invited a UN delegation to Iran to estimate the degree of damage caused by the war, IRNA reported on 2 July. The deputy minister said Iran insists on its previous position — the "disqualification" of the United Nations to settle the war and impose peace. However, he added, Iran will use the United Nations as a forum to publicize the "crimes of Saddam" and as a platform to express its views. He also rejected the interpretation that the UN delegation's visit implied that Iran wants the United Nations to play a more active mediatory role in the resolution of the war, IRNA added.

Gulf Oil Slick

The Gulf states' experts on the protection of the marine environment at the end of their meeting in Bahrain worked out a plan to combat oil slicks that have resulted from oil leaking from the Iranian wells hit by Iraqi missiles, IRNA reported 2 July. On the basis of this plan both sea- and air-borne measures could be taken to combat the oil slick, IRNA added.

Afghanistan

PDPA Plenum — A plenary session of the PDPA Central Committee, presided over by General Secretary Babrak Karmal, adopted "important" measures concerning the improvement of the situation in the country based on the further consolidation of the PDPA, revolutionary sovereignty, the economy, and the DRA Armed Forces, according to Kabul radio on 3 July. The session also approved a number of changes in the composition of the Central Committee.

Military Situation — One Soviet MIG was shot down and another damaged by insurgent anti-aircraft fire on 13 June in Badakhshan Province, according to a 4 July SPA report. In another encounter, Soviet troops seized the town of Khakriz, east of Qandahar, after a battle that left some 80 insurgents and civilians dead, AFP reported on 2 July citing Afghan sources in Islamabad. Earlier, in an attack against joint Soviet-DRA forces in the Dughi region of Herat Province, insurgents killed 15 soldiers of the joint forces, IRNA reported.

Pakistan

Shultz Visit — U.S.-Pakistani relations are moving forward in a "splendid" manner without any impediments or obstacles, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told visiting Secretary of

State Shultz, according to Karachi radio on 3 July. Yaqub Khan affirmed that it is a matter of great satisfaction to Pakistan that bilateral relations have become "sound and perfect" and that they are based on the spirit of mutual respect. The problem of Afghanistan figured prominently during the talks between the two officials, the radio said, and Yaqub Khan informed Shultz of the results of the current indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. President Ziaul Haq also held talks with the secretary, according to another radio report.

Nuclear Plant Raid Attempt — President Zia accused Israel of "seriously considering" a commando raid earlier this year to destroy Pakistan's nuclear plant, according to a 3 July AFP report. Zia did not elaborate on when the alleged raid was to have taken place but said Israel and "other countries" had nothing to fear because Pakistan has no intention of building nuclear weapons.

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Delegation Departs for Meetings in Moscow 3 July
LD040635 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] Kabul, July 3, BAKHTAR — An Afghan delegation headed by Khalil Ahmad Abawi, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA and president of the State Planning Committee of the DRA, left for Moscow today.

The delegation will participate in the meetings of Afghan-Soviet joint commission.

BAKHTAR Comments on Shultz' Pakistan Visit, U.S. Aid
LD050556 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Text] Kabul, July 4, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes:

The United States will continue to give military, financial and political assistance to Afghan counter-revolutionaries. George Shultz U.S. secretary of state during his visit of the counter-revolutionary camps located in Pakistan told the bandits that the USA is on their side and promised them firm US backing in future as well.

This provocative visit of U.S. secretary of state once again proved that the United States is the main obstacle for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan despite the demagogic and deceptive support of Washington for a political solution of the problem. Now the world knows that the interventions in the internal affairs of the DRA by U.S. imperialism and its direct financial, military and political support to the counter-revolutionaries mainly from the territory of Pakistan constitutes the major factor of the situation around Afghanistan. The cessation of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and a reliable guarantee of the non-occurrence of such interventions are the only way for solving the problems.

However, the statement made by George Shultz once again proved that the U.S. imperialism is against the political solution of the issues around Afghanistan. On the contrary, the United States is stepping up its direct intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It is providing increased military, financial and political aid to counter-revolutionaries and by exerting pressure on Islamabad regime, gives new dimensions to its undeclared war against Afghanistan. According to Western news media the U.S. imperialism has given over 100 million dollars as assistance to Afghan bandits since the second half of 1982. This means that the United States has given one hundred million dollars to counter-revolutionary gangs in a period of less than a year. However, Mr. Shultz must know that the people of Afghanistan have chosen for good the way of their life and the system of their government, whether the U.S. and its allies like these or not.

AFP Reports Karmal Plans To Visit Mongolia
OW042059 Hong Kong AFP in English 1924 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 4 (AFP) — Afghan President Babrak Karmal will shortly pay a "friendly visit" to Mongolia, Kabul radio, monitored here, said today.

It gave no programme for the visit. But Afghan analysts here believed that all formalities were probably completed and that the trip was likely to take place in the next few days.

It will be Mr. Karmal's second visit to Mongolia after he seized power following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Captured in Badakhshan
LD041651 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] A number of counterrevolutionary elements, who were disrupting the peace and security of the people of (Darwaz) District, Badakhshan Province, recently were crushed by the officers and troops of Badakhshan Province Sarandoy and Operational Battalion with the cooperation of the people of that district. Fifty-five of these criminals have been captured.

A source of Badakhshan sarandoy said that 17 assorted weapons, 37 handgrenades, 1,136 various types of ammunition, 2 binoculars, and food supplies have been seized from these criminals.

SPA Cites Mujahidin Downing of Soviet Plane
LD042205 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 4, SPA — One Soviet aircraft was shot down and another damaged by Afghani mujahidin's resistance gunfire in Keshim county of northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province on June 13, Radio Pakistan reported last night.

During the mujahidin attack on communist military posts around Keshem, several communist troops were killed while being routed. Soviet-Afghan Government troops under mujahidin pressure called for air help and five MiG fighters came in, the radio said. Mujahidin anti-aircraft guns downed one and damaged another plane while three managed to escape, the radio added.

AFP: Soviet Troops Retake Qandahar Province Town
BK021521 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 2 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 2 (AFP) — Soviet troops have seized the town of Khakriz, 50 km (30 miles) east of Qandahar, southwestern Afghanistan, after a battle that left some 80 resistance members and civilians dead, the rebels' AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported here today.

The troops attacked the town from three sides after massive shelling and air raids, the agency said.

The rebels had gained control of Khakriz earlier this year, but ran out of anti-aircraft ammunition and had to evacuate the town on June 17 after 62 days of resistance, the agency said.

Ex-Rector Calls Afghan Education System 'Collapsed'
OW041845 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 4 Jul 83

[By Michel Martin Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, July 4 (Afp) — Afghanistan's higher education system has collapsed as 80 per cent of teachers at the main university in the capital, Kabul, have fled the country since the April 1978 communist takeover.

The claim was made in an interview here with the university's former rector Mohammed Haider who said the country's student population had dropped in five years from 15,000 to 6,000. He said that those left were taught, along Soviet lines, by untrained teachers chosen simply for their loyalty to the regime.

Dr. Haider, a 54-year-old economist, now in exile in Pakistan, said that as an incentive, students were automatically passed in the year following a three-month stint in the Afghan Army.

He said that at the Kabul law faculty, where he was still teaching last month, 90 per cent of students were girls, because boys had either fled the country or joined the resistance movements fighting the Soviet backed regime of Babrak Karmal.

Dr. Haider said that Afghanistan's second university at Jalalabad, east of the capital, "no longer functions" while high schools in Herat and Qandahar, the second and third largest towns, "are paralysed."

Three-and-a-half years after the Soviet intervention, Dr. Haider said, some 6,000 young Afghans, chosen because of their membership of the Afghan Communist Party, are studying in Soviet or Eastern European technical colleges and universities. He added that many youngsters are sent to Soviet holiday camps for two or three month "indoctrination" sessions.

Dr. Haider spent eight months in prison until being freed in the amnesty which followed Mr. Karmal's victory in the internal power struggle at the same moment as Soviet forces entered the country. He was then asked to return to teaching, but said that he left because the situation "was intolerable," with the sole material available for his courses, two books printed in Moscow, one entitled, *Capitalism*, the other, *Socialism*.

"I had no relations with the Soviet teachers," he said, "nor with the students, who cannot speak freely, for everyone in Kabul fears the agents of the secret police."

He described the campus as "encircled with barbed wire, with frequent identity checks in the corridors."

[Word indistinct] were numerous party meetings there that it was [word indistinct] able to attend.

Named rector of Kabul University after Mohamed Daud came to power in July 1973, he said he was sacked in 1975 "by the communists who were totally infiltrating the regime." Faced with a teacher shortage, Dr. Haider was recalled to the university for a few months in 1978 during the time of Mohamed Taraki, but was arrested a short time later because of his "refusal to collaborate with the government."

Since arriving in Pakistan with his wife and three children, Dr. Haider has been appalled by what he terms the small amount of Western press coverage of the three-year fight that Afghans have been waging against the Soviet Army.

He said that Western intellectuals made a mistake in misjudging the Afghan resistance movement because it was led by mullahs — Moslem religious leaders.

Dr. Haider said that since the Soviet invasion the terms left and right have lost all meaning, and, in any case, the mullahs were "nationalists fighting for their freedom."

Shultz Leaves Delhi for Islamabad 2 Jul

*BK020905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
2 Jul 83*

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, left New Delhi for Islamabad this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry.

When asked by newsmen at the airport about his assessment of the visit, Mr Shultz described it as very fine. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, later told newsmen that Mr Shultz' talks with him have been satisfactory and encouraging. He said the differences which persisted between India and the United States were pointed out during the talks. We have tried to understand each other's stand on many issues. Mr Rao said the United States now understands our position as we would like them to understand it.

He said apart from the question of Tarapur they discussed several matters, including nonalignment, the situation in this region, and economic matters. About the Tarapur atomic power plant, Mr Rao hoped that there will be no further hitch. About the West Asia problem, Mr Rao said they did touch upon it but did not go deep into it. When asked about the general atmosphere during his talks with Mr Shultz, Mr Rao said it continued at the same level of cordiality.

Earlier, Mr Shultz had a meeting with prominent Indian industrialists in New Delhi today. The industrialists explained to him the favorable conditions for American investment in the country. They emphasized that the industry never failed to fulfill its obligations in the transfer of royalties and dividends. They also impressed upon him that India has maintained a significant industrial growth rate of 4 to 5 percent during the past 3 years. Investment in India will help American entrepreneurs to have outlets in Southeast [as head] Asia and other countries in the region.

Canada's MacEachen Holds Talks With Rao

*BK041629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
4 Jul 83*

[Text] India and Canada today discussed in New Delhi several proposals to intensify their economic collaboration. The Canadian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr MacEachen, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, who had 2 hours of formal talks, expressed their conviction that the two countries can give much greater substance to their friendly relationship. Mr MacEachen said that apart from an exchange of views with Indian leaders, the purpose of his visit is also to deepen commercial and economic ties between India and Canada. Besides Mr Rao, he had meetings with the industry minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

An agreement was signed under which Canada will give more than \$66.5 million for the supply of (tanola) oil, also known as rapeseed oil. It will be supplied to the National Dairy Develop-

ment Board to support its edible oils project. Mr MacEachen was present when the document was signed by the finance secretary, Mr P.K. Kaul, and the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr Hadwen.

In the commercial field, India raised the question of Canada's import quotas on footwear and textiles. Several proposals in the field of mining were also considered. Among these is the lead and zinc mine at (Rampura-Agarshah) in Rajasthan, which involves an investment of \$550 million. The Government of India has not yet taken the final decision on the project but it has suggested to Canada to make a package offer for financing it when the decision is finally taken.

About India's tender for a 5-year contract for the purchase of 1 million tons of coking coal every year, the Canadian side was informed that the matter is being processed. Several Canadian firms are taking part in the tender and two Indian technical experts have gone to visit some of the mines from where supplies are proposed to be made. Four Canadian firms have also tendered for preparing the feasibility study for the Singhbhum copper project in Bihar. The visiting foreign minister was informed that the Hindustan Copper Limited is considering the offers.

The possibility of a joint venture for manufacturing the Canadian Twin Otter plane in India was suggested and the matter is being explored.

Mr MacEachen's official talks with Mr Rao covered a wide range of bilateral and international issues. These include Kampuchea, on which the two countries have different perceptions. They also referred to the proposal made by the nonaligned summit for a meeting of the heads of state and government during the next UN General Assembly session. According to the Canadian spokesman, Ottawa is sympathetic to the idea and has not taken any fixed position on the proposal.

4 July Delhi Banquet

*BK050823 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
5 Jul 83*

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that India and Canada have a common obligation to preserve world peace as both the countries are committed to disarmament. Narasimha Rao was speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of the visiting Canadian deputy prime minister, MacEachen, in New Delhi last night. He said India attaches great importance to Canada's positive response to the nonaligned proposal for an informal gathering of world leaders during the coming session of the UN General Assembly. Rao pointed out that such a meeting will initiate a frank and purposeful dialogue within the international community.

He said the growing North-South divide is dangerous to the international relations. It only worsens the plight of developing countries, which are groaning under a heavy burden of debt. Rao said India is looking forward to the visit of the Canadian prime minister, Trudeau, later this year.

Earlier, MacEachen assured India that nobody entering Canada since last year is now given the status of a refugee. A nongovernmental board which looks after this matter had found that no Sikh had any political reason for seeking refugee status in Canada. Canada has also closed down the so-called consulates of Khalistan which had been set up there.

Venkataraman Returns From USSR Visit

*BK021625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
2 Jul 83*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi today after a week's visit to the Soviet Union. On his return journey he had a brief stopover at Geneva.

President Addresses Sikh Group in Calcutta

*BK041314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
4 Jul 83*

[Excerpt] President Giani Zail Singh today appealed to the people, particularly to the Sikhs, to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. He was addressing a large congregation at the Gurdwara Bara Sikh Sangat at Burra Bazar in central Calcutta. He said people should not be misguided or misled by the propaganda of the extremists.

Giani Zail Singh stressed the need to maintain the sanctity of religious places and said that criminals should not be allowed to take shelter in gurdwaras or temples. He said that religion should be kept away from politics. Guru Granth Saheb [Sikh holy book] preaches against hatred and violence. People should follow these teachings.

Arms Discovered in Raid on Sikh Site Displayed

*BK041615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
4 Jul 83*

[Text] In Amritsar police today displayed arms recovered from Nihangs [Sikh sect] after an encounter at Baba Bakala on Saturday. These include Springfield rifles, 1 Pakistan-made stengun, a country-made 12-bore pistol and 9-mm pistol, 1 hand grenade, 20 live and 90 empty cartridges. Later, talking to newsmen, Senior Superintendent of Police (Sarabjit Singh) said police and the Central Reserve Police force fired 142 rounds in the 3-hour encounter with the Nihangs. The police chief denied that the so-called cantonment of the Nihangs had been captured. It was searched and not occupied.

AFP: Bomb Blast, Demonstration Reported in Punjab

BK050731 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 5 Jul 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (AFP) — A bomb blast and Sikh demonstration in Punjab yesterday have dashed hopes for a return to peace anytime soon in the violence-rocked state where some of India's 16 million Sikhs are demanding greater

autonomy, observers said today. A blast in Jullundur last night left at least one person injured and created fresh panic among the city's 300,000 residents, and earlier Sikhs rallied in the city's train station shouting slogans against the Hindus and for autonomy.

Police said today that two unexploded bombs were recovered from a residential district of the city, where a terrorist Sikh group had threatened to blow up two Hindu temples by this morning. The threat did not materialize apparently because of tight security around the temples, but intelligence sources said that the locally-manufactured bombs could have been meant for such an attack. Possessing the temples has become an important issue of prestige between the Sikhs and the Hindus.

Meanwhile the *Indian Express* newspaper said that the federal government had "increasing evidence of foreign involvement in the extremist activities in Punjab." It quoted police saying that a sten gun and a revolver bearing Pakistani markings were recovered recently in Punjab, which borders Pakistan. It said the government was worried also about the increasing involvement of young Sikhs in the movement and the apparently growing support for "Khalistan," a separate Sikh homeland.

Yesterday 40 young Sikhs descended from a train in Jullundur station to shout slogans against the Hindus and for Khalistan. Before police moved in, the demonstrators scrambled onto a departing train. Meanwhile, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency said that Punjab police would probably go to West Germany to seek extradition of an alleged Sikh extremist arrested by the international police organisation (Interpol) on June 29. Talwinder Singh, wanted here for alleged manslaughter and sedition, was travelling with a Canadian passport when he was arrested.

In a related matter, the Indian Government scored a victory yesterday when the visiting Canadian Deputy Premier and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen assured India that Sikhs no longer would be given refugee status in Canada. Until now loopholes in Canadian law have allowed Sikhs to receive refugee status there. The Indian Government believes that the Canadian Sikhs have been aiding Indian Sikhs by sending money and publicizing their demands abroad.

Jullundur Reported Peaceful; Day Curfew Lifted

*BK050720 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
5 Jul 83*

[Text] The situation in Jullundur continues to be peaceful and under control. Day curfew has been lifted and life is fast returning to normal.

Meanwhile, according to district authorities, a cracker-type device exploded in Green Park area last evening, causing minor injuries to one person who was given first aid in the civil hospital. The deputy commissioner of Jullundur has cautioned the people against the rumors and said the device was a cracker and not a bomb.

Yaqub Khan Welcomes Secretary Shultz 2 July
BK021045 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
 2 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan.

In a statement at the airport, Mr Shultz said that he was looking forward to his talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on a wide range of subjects of concern and interest to the two countries.

On arrival, the American secretary of state was received by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and other senior officials of the Foreign Office. The first official engagement of the American secretary of state will be to attend the inauguration of the Pak-U.S. joint commission set up for promoting economic, commercial, educational, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. Later, he will have formal talks with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

USSR Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call on Zia 30 Jun
BK301730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
 30 Jun 83

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, V. Smirnov, made a courtesy call on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi today. The ambassador exchanged views with the president on matters of bilateral interest.

KHALEEJ TIMES Cites Soviet Envoy's Interview
GF011046 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 1 Jul 83 p 20

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Islamabad — Soviet Ambassador Smirnov thinks that Pakistan has created difficulties for itself by accepting the "advice of its so-called friends" and warned that Pakistan would further "weaken" its position if it persisted in its refusal to have direct talks with the Karmal regime.

Suave and usually soft-spoken the Soviet envoy using very strong language in his interview to a panel of journalists belonging to the *Jang* group of newspapers, said the Soviet Union could not even think of any horse trading with the United States on the question of Afghanistan to seek concessions on some other issues at the cost of its friends.

Mr Smirnov said US Secretary of State George Shultz was coming to Pakistan with "something special in his brief case." This thing is named "Soviet threat" by which Americans would scare Pakistan to concede some more "position to the United States," Mr Smirnov added.

When a questioner reminded him that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has categorically repudiated insinuations that Pakistan had come under American pressure, Mr Smirnov said he wished Mr Yaqub Khan's claim was right.

He accused the Pakistani press of being under the influence of Zionist-controlled Western news agencies, which were drumming up the propaganda of a Soviet threat to world peace. He said the Soviet Union did not wish any confrontation even with imperialist powers.

He said Afghanistan was a friend of the Soviet Union and his country would never sacrifice its friends.

The Soviet ambassador scoffed at the theory of historical Soviet intentions to reach warm waters in the south and observed that the "Soviet Union had plenty of both warm and cold waters and needs no additional waters."

He referred to his recent visit to Pakistan's northern areas of Hunza and Gilgit and said people there told him that the British had raised the bogey of Soviet threat to subjugate those areas. He was the first Soviet diplomat to go there and posed no threat to the people, nor would there be any in future as well.

Province Expels MRD Leader Prior to 'Black Day'
GF041239 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Jul 83
 p 20

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Islamabad — Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, chief of the National Democratic Party and convener of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD], was expelled yesterday from Sind for 90 days by the provincial government as MRD prepared to observe "Black Day" tomorrow, the sixth anniversary of the present government.

Reports reaching here said that Mr Mazari, whose entry in other three provinces is already banned, refused to receive orders but was taken to the Karachi airport for an unknown destination.

The MRD has called upon people to wear black armbands and fly black flags on their houses, vehicles and shops. Political observers here consider the MRD move as a dress rehearsal for the civil disobedience movement the MRD plans to launch on August 14 — the independence day which is also the deadline set by President Ziaul Haq for announcing a new political structure.

The opponents of the MRD believe that its movement would not be effective but Mr Mazari recently expressed his confidence that the movement would be a success.

While Pagara Muslim League and Jammāt-i-Islami remain strongly opposed to the eight-party alliance, another Himayat Tehrik (support Zia movement), has announced it will demonstrate support for the present regime on July 5, to frustrate the MRD bid to observe the "Black Day."

Meanwhile, an APP report from Quetta said that the Baluchistan Government had warned people of strong action under martial law regulations against hoisting of black flags on July 5. In a press-note, the provincial government advised the people "in their own interest" not to allow hoisting of black flags on their houses, shops and vehicles.

Assembly of Experts To Hold First Meeting 14 July
LD041226 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA — The first Assembly of Experts, comprising 69 representatives from throughout the country, will be inaugurated in Tehran on July 14 with a message by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, it was announced today.

A spokesman for the central body to supervise over the assembly's elections, Mehdi Shaiyesteh, said here today that the Assembly of Experts was an institute which should always exist in the Islamic Republic according to Articles 5, 107 and 108 of the Constitution. He noted that the elections for the Assembly of Experts was held on Dec. 10 last year electing 77 representatives but the names of eight members were removed from the list following a decision by the Council of Guardians of the Constitution. Therefore, Shaiyesteh said, there remained only 69 representatives, more than the two third of the total 83, enabling the inauguration of the Assembly according to Article 13 of the Constitution.

The Assembly of Experts is, according to Article 10, scheduled to be held in Qom provided that it deemed necessary to hold it somewhere else, Shaiyesteh said, adding that the opening ceremonies would be held in Tehran.

On the remaining 14 representatives of the Assembly, he said that probably they would be elected by the people of their representing areas during the second Majlis elections.

Shaiyesteh added that all the officials and other leading personalities of the Islamic Republic had been invited to take part in the inauguration ceremonies.

He concluded by saying that the Assembly of Experts was responsible to appoint the board of directors, approve the Assembly's regulations, and consult on the appointment of the leader or the council of leaders.

The Assembly would run for 8 years and should hold at least five meetings per year unless 10 representatives felt necessary the formation of extraordinary sessions.

Musavi-Ardabili Views Problems in Supreme Court
GF020642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Jul 83

[Text] Musavi-Ardabili, head of the Supreme Court, in a talk in Yazd, discussed current problems in the country. Concerning the courts and judicial laws, he said: In general, since our regime is an Islamic Republic, the courts should be related to this regime and to an Islamic judicial system. However, we cannot provide judges with the rules that exist in Islam. Nevertheless, many efforts have been made and we hope as time passes both judicial courts and the prosecutor's office will be able to provide a sufficient number of judges and officials as needed.

He also said: Based on recent statistics, we have 800 vacant judgeships in addition to other judicial representatives. We need

1,000 judges. In an effort to provide these judges, the judicial university which is part of the judicial court now has about 320 students who are studying in it. He hoped that the dear brother clergymen who are qualified will assume the great responsibility of judges.

Commenting on some of the inefficiencies in the courts, Musavi-Ardabili said: In general, the problems of the Islamic Republic of Iran are reduced as time passes. There have been many inefficiencies. For example, one of them was a delay in attending to judicial cases. Efforts have been made to solve these delays. In the Supreme Court during October-November, we had a backlog of 31,000 cases, which has now been reduced to 20,000 due to recent changes.

Regarding the strictness of the courts in dealing with swindling, he said: We will be very strict with the problems of overcharging and swindling and steps have been taken recently to make these problems the responsibility of the revolution courts instead of the public courts. In this way, these cases will be handled more quickly and harshly. The head of the Supreme Court also said: High officials in the economic council are also looking at ways to solve these problems. Because the problems of overcharging and swindling are not proper in the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran should not have to endure it. Swindling and overcharging are problems in society and should be cured. The head of the Supreme Court also said: One of these days, thanks to the guidance that will be given to the courts, these problems will be dealt with effectively.

Khamene'i Friday Sermon Notes Jerusalem Day
LD011351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Excerpts] On the third Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan, coinciding with the anniversary of the wounding of the symbol of piety and self-sacrifice, the lord of the pious people and prince of the believers, His Great Eminence 'Ali ibn-e 'Abitalib — peace be upon him — millions of Muslim and fasting compatriots took part in the glorious religious and political ceremonies of the Friday prayers throughout the country. Tehran University also witnessed today the participation of the masses of Muslim and fasting people of Tehran in the Friday prayers. This eternal Muslim tradition was held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Islam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran.

In his first sermon the Friday imam of Tehran pursued the discussion on popular and Islamic governments.

In his second sermon the Friday imam of Tehran said with reference to the issue of war and international Jerusalem Day:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] The problem of war is still the top problem of this nation. To us it is a duty to crush the aggressors, who feel that they are fighting to serve the interests of Western governments. This is a whole-hearted Islamic jihad. Apart from the Iranian nation, the nation of Iraq also is in need of our victory in this jihad. In addition to the nations of Iran and Iraq, the Palestinian nation also needs to see the destruction of this malign

nant and dangerous cancer infiltrating the body of the Iraqi society. So long as they remain, the issue of Palestine will certainly see no solution. A government like the Iraqi Government is sufficient to create discord among the Muslim forces. It can channel thoughts, attention, and energy in some other direction. So, as long as this unpopular regime, which is imposed upon the people of Iraq, remains in power the issue of Palestine and Jerusalem will not be solved either.

As a Muslim person and not as someone in charge of the Islamic Republic, as a Muslim human being who is aware of the feelings of other Muslims like myself all over the world, I announce that the liberation of Jerusalem — which is one of the great aspirations of the large Islamic nation — requires that a necessary preliminary step be taken. This preliminary step is the annihilation of this tyrant system which rules Iraq today. [shouts of approval and "God is great"] So long as they exist, neither the nation of Iraq nor that of Iran, that is, the largest figure of those nations that are able to serve in a war, will not be able to serve Palestine.

Jerusalem Day will be held next week. Friday, that is the last Friday in the month of Ramadan, was chosen by the imam of the nation in 1979 as Jerusalem Day. This is a day when all the Muslim nations should show their sentiments and feelings toward this honorable Jerusalem. This is not exclusive to you. Of course, you brothers and sisters of the Islamic Republic should be the vanguards of this movement. Through your movements, demonstrations, marches, slogans, and cries you should draw the attention of all the Muslim nations to yourselves. And next week you should, in a real sense, show the feelings of those Muslims who are sad and sorry to see Jerusalem in chains and the nation of Palestinians homeless. You should show that you have not forgotten the issue of Palestine; and the issue of Palestine can never be forgotten. There are those in the world of Islam and in Arab countries who want to pretend that the issues of Jerusalem and Palestine are forgotten. This is one of the most treacherous actions and motives. There are others who are saying: Well, the issue of Palestine has not been forgotten, but we are going to adopt social methods to liberate Palestine because you have tried extremist and forceful methods. They are repeating the same phrase which has certainly been instilled by the Zionists themselves. Peaceful and conciliatory methods were tried before the later adoption of other methods by Arab countries. But these methods were defeated. If conciliation were to tame this blood-sucking tiger, then certainly the peaceful approach and indifference of the heads and responsible authorities of the Arab countries and those of the Arab and Palestinian organizations would have done so at the beginning when this dear Islamic country was occupied.

The Zionists take one step forward whenever it suits them. Their policy is a step-by-step policy.

Today they take one step forward, which creates a hue and cry in the Islamic world; some start condemning and others chant slogans. Then some people come to mediate and peace is restored. Once the dust settles and after a respite, it takes another new step. This is the method which the Zionists have adopted in and around Palestine to date. [end recording]

Rafiqdust: Imposed Peace Worse Than War

GF011626 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Province, July 1, IRNA — Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC], Mohsen Rafiqdust, said Friday that an imposed peace was much worse than an imposed war. He said in a short interview with IRNA that just as Imam Khomeini had said, the war should end with a military victory and the Islamic forces were totally prepared to battle till the overthrow [of] the Iraqi regime.

Rafiqdust said that in the Iraqi imposed war, the Islamic Republic also wanted to defeat the logic of aggression.

The IRGC minister arrived here Friday morning for talks with local provincial and IRGC officials.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,363

LD011757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,363 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Commemorating the 19th day of the blessed month of Ramadan, the situation on the fronts of the imposed war is brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots:

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and heavy weaponsfire sporadically continued on most of the western and southern fronts between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist forces. On every front, the strong combatants of Islam by carrying out defense measures, guarding their defense positions and regions, and continuing to consolidate their defense trenches and fortifications, brought the movements, traffic, and operational activities of the Iraqi forces under their control. At various times, by opening fire, our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy forces.

On one of the Kordestan border fronts, as a result of the heavy and accurate fire of our combatants' artillery, one motorized column of the Iraqi forces was destroyed on the other side of the border and a large number of enemy vehicles were set on fire.

On one of the Ilam fronts, a unit of the Iraqi forces tried to move and change its positions; but by opening intense fire, the combatants of Islam stopped the enemy's movement. Our forces destroyed one truck and more than five enemy trenches and stopped support activities. Three houses in Abadan yesterday were destroyed by the fire of mercenary Saddam's criminals. In the past 24 hours, the combatants of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran robbed the Iraqi forces of any opportunity to carry out air raids.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic
o f i r a n

Communique No 1,364

*LD021738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
2 Jul 83*

[Communique No 1,364 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Condolences to all the faithful on the martyrdom of the rightful imam, supporter of the oppressed and helper of the meek, the lord of the believers, the sire of the virtuous, 'Ali son of Abu Talib, peace be upon him.

During the past 24 hours, on the southern fronts, the justice-seeking combatants of Islam defended the regions under their protection and consolidated their defensive positions while opening artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy units, crushing their activities. At 0200 yesterday, the enemy, using a force with the capability of a strengthened infantry company, intended to move closer to our forces stationed in the Sharhani region but the timely fire of our units forced it to flee. Also, at 0130 and 0825 today, the enemy launched a two-phased operation aimed at capturing the position occupied by our combatants in the Sharhani region. But the resistance, steadfastness, and fast reaction of the forces of Islam foiled the operation of the Zionist enemy, and the Saddamist mercenaries suffered a large number of casualties and had to retreat.

Yesterday the fire of our combative units on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud halted enemy engineering operations and set fire to eight trenches, three observation posts, and an ammunition depot.

Residential districts of Abadan yesterday came under the enemy's long range fire as a result of which two houses and stores caught fire. Sporadic exchanges of fire continued yesterday on most western fronts, the intensity of fire being greater in Nowrud then elsewhere. Enemy losses in these fronts included one vehicle, several observation posts, and a number of trenches and foxholes.

During the past 24 hours, the anti-aircraft defense units of our forces foiled enemy air raids on some of southern and western border regions and forced enemy planes to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,365

*LD031810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
3 Jul 83*

[Communique No 1,365 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday limited and sporadic exchanges of fire and confrontations continued on the western and southern fronts of the country. The selfless combatants of Islam on each front, while defending their positions, opened artillery and heavy arms fire on enemy positions and units, thus keeping a check on Saddamist forces' troop movements and activities. Our forces silenced enemy fire and inflicted consider-

able damage and casualties on Saddam's aggressive Zionist mercenaries.

Following the crushing of a series of offensives launched by Iraqi forces in the Sharhani region yesterday morning, the defeated Saddamist mercenaries once again attempted a futile attack in the same region but the victorious and powerful forces of Islam foiled all their moves and inflicted damage and casualties on them.

In exchange of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the combatants of Islam returned the enemy fire by opening fire on enemy positions and fortifications situated on the other side of the Arvand Rud, halting the activities of Iraqi forces and destroying more than four heavy weapons emplacements and observation posts. They also silenced the fire of the Saddamist forces and killed or wounded a number of their soldiers.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan repeatedly came under heavy weapons fire by the Saddamist criminals, as a result of which three houses and stores were ruined.

During the past 24 hours, all attempts made by the Iraqi forces to violate Iran's airspace were foiled and neutralized by the selfless personnel of the Air Force and our anti-aircraft defense units.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Musavi-Khamene'i Discusses 4 July Cabinet Session

*LD050609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT
4 Jul 83*

[Text] The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and discussed the current affairs of the country and political developments in the region. After this meeting, our correspondent interviewed the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Musavi, please tell us what issues were discussed in this afternoon's Cabinet meeting?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, after a Koran recitation, we had a few reports and an analysis of the situation in the region, inside the country, including reports about the few attacks launched by the Iraqi regime in Sharhani, during which it has been dealt a heavy blow. It was reported that after the first attack they were forced to withdraw after having suffered 500 dead. This demonstrates the vigilance and awareness of our fighters in the fronts and can be regarded as a victory by us.

The most important issue discussed in this afternoon's session was the financial situation of the government during the past 3 months, our income, the sale of oil, taxes, expenditures. The point that was stressed was the speed with which development budgets were used, which was very noticeable in different organizations; so much so that the budget may prove to be inadequate to assist in the faster development of affairs. A number of bills were also approved and the governors general for the two provinces of

Hormozegan and Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmrad were appointed. Mr (Torkan) who was the governor general of Ilam has been appointed governor general of Hormozegan. Brother (Qanbari) who is the supervisor of the governorate general of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad has been appointed governor general. We hope that they will serve the deprived and oppressed people of those provinces, God willing.

[Question] Recently a UN delegation visited the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the war zones of Iran and Iraq, and it submitted a report to that organization. Have any views been expressed by that organization about this report? If so, what are the views of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran about that report?

[Answer] Of course, so far there has been no reaction in this field. The fact that the report has been compiled could be regarded as having been affected by our Islamic Revolution, which reflects the veracity of our Islamic Revolution. The publication of this report could show how extensive the scope of Saddam's crimes in our country has been. So much of it has been publicized by the United Nations and by the world. Of course, in our view, the report has a quantitative aspect, which reflects some of the facts. But it does not reflect all the facts about the losses our country has suffered as the result of this imposed war. We do not expect the United Nations to be able to take any other steps after this report. As we have announced before, our attitude toward international organizations is that those organizations serve the interests of big powers. However, they have to be acknowledged as a reality in the world. It is natural for our country to make use of these tribunes on the basis of its realism. Any kind of optimism about these organizations is a kind of self-deception. I hope that the system of the Islamic Republic would in no point in its history become a victim to self-deception and would not pin its hope upon these organizations. In this matter, too, we have acted in the same way. Our committed brothers in the United Nations, as well as in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, did the right thing. Their action caused some of Saddam's crimes to be revealed. However, if we hope that this will lead to justice or that the United Nations will stop defending the interests of world arrogance, this would be a kind of self-deception.

[Question] Concerning domestic issues, it is harvest time and the government purchases guaranteed crops from the farmers. The purchase of rice will start very soon. Will the government act directly this year as it did 2 years ago, or are there other plans?

[Answer] Concerning rice, the decision is that the distribution will be like last year, under government aegis. The sale of rice will also continue to be controlled and the borders of the two provinces will not be opened. However, with respect to the pricing, we have thought of allowing ourselves a little time. There is still some time left before rice harvesting and naturally the price will be announced during this period. The sale and purchase of rice will be carried out like last year, on the basis of the announced price. [end recording]

Ministry Official Views UN Delegation's Report GF021750 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 2 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — The deputy foreign affairs minister in a press conference here today categorically denied reports of foreign news agencies claiming that Iran had invited a United Nations delegation to Iran to estimate degree of damage caused by the 34-month-old Iraqi imposed war.

Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, speaking to domestic reporters, added that Iran insisted on its previous positions, i.e. disqualification of the U.N. to settle the Iraqi imposed war and imposition of peace. However, he added, the Islamic Republic of Iran would use the forum of the U.N. to reflect crimes of Saddam to the people of the world and as a platform to express its views.

He further rejected interpretation by foreign media to the effect that the U.N. delegation's visit implied that the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted U.N. to play a more active mediatory role in the Iraq-Iran war.

Such distortions aimed at deflecting the world public opinion from the U.N. mission's report on the degree of destruction caused by Iraqi aggressor forces, he added, although the said report did not reflect the entire damage caused by the Iraqi forces. Saddam's regime was still trying to distract the world opinion from the report, he continued.

Commenting further on the U.N. report on the visit of its mission to Iran and Iraq, released late in July, Kazempur-Ardabili said that the Iranian representative to the U.N. in a letter to its secretary general had declared that Saddam had to fabricate fictitious places alleged to have been damaged by the Iranian attack. While the extent of the devastation caused by the Iraqi aggression in Iran was so great that time did not allow that the U.N. mission, could be shown but a fraction of it.

Furthermore, the Iranian representative in his letter had referred to some 1,200 cities and villages completely destroyed by the Iraqi forces which the U.N. mission had no time to visit.

When asked to comment on the U.N. fact finding delegation's report, the deputy foreign minister said it includes only a small portion of crimes of Saddam. The report he went on, has put the Security Council of the U.N. in an uneasy position because the report compelled it to take up a stance on the issue.

He further told reporters that the report itself could not set up any standard of conduct for Iran, rather the attitude of the Security Council and other institutions in relation to condemning the Iraqi Ba'thist regime for its criminal acts, could have demonstrated the soundness of their position.

However, he added, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not expect such stances. But he hoped that the report would display these crimes to the world public opinion.

As for falsification of the U.N. report by the Iraqi media and their claim that the report had allegedly condemned Iran, the Foreign Ministry official said that it was another act of distortion by the Iraqi regime. This was reminiscent of the Iraqi regime's claim that the Iranian forces had attacked and destroyed the Iraqi port city of Masra, whereas it refused to show the city to the U.N. mission.